

Daily GLOWBUGS

Digest: V1 #27

via AB4EL Web Digests @ SunSITE

Purpose: building and operating vacuum tube-based QRP rigs

[AB4EL Ham Radio Homepage @ SunSITE](#)

%%%% GlowBugs %%%%% GlowBugs %%%%% GlowBugs %%%%% GlowBugs %%%%%

Subject: glowbugs V1 #27

glowbugs

Friday, May 9 1997

Volume 01 : Number 027

Date: Thu, 8 May 1997 10:18:49 -0400 (EDT)

From: leeboo@ct.net (Leon Wiltsey)

Subject: Hers add for heath man.

Hi Gang

Just ordered a manual for a piece of Heath equipment.

Heath is still in Business and here is the phone no.

616 925 5899 They are in benton Harbor mich.

Thank the good LORD for all that you have!!!

Leon B Wiltsey jr. (Lee)

4600 Lake Haven blvd...

Sebring fl 33872.....

68yr old retired semi disabled senior

(stroke got my balance and hand to eye coordination)

formerly w4kcj & kp4ryb (till I quite) dumb dumb

NOW KF4RCL MUCH HAPPINESS

play keyboard and sing

music 1920's to 60'

none of the 80'S- 90'S noise

Date: Thu, 08 May 1997 10:52:34 -0400

From: John <johnmb@mindspring.com>

Subject: the BA/GB/QRP freq and W1AW

I called CQ w/the indians (Apache/Mohawk) at about 22:00-22:30 w/no takers...

(on the BA 3579 QRG)

Since we're discussing QRM, what do people think the chances of getting W1AW to move a few kc? I'd wager that they cause more QRM than does the RTTY. While they may "claim" the frequency since they may have been parked there for a number of years (anyone know for sure?)...they of all organizations should be sensitive to the needs of the many glowbuggers, BA-ers and QRPers who make use of 3579 because of the plethora of rocks available for that particular frequency, while they have the spectrum to choose from.

Would petitioning them to QSY be fruitless, or worth a shot?

/John

Date: Thu, 8 May 1997 11:10:25 -0400 (EDT)
From: EWoodman@aol.com
Subject: BIG BERTHA RADIOMARINE

OK, I wasn't going to ask, but can't control myself any longer. For my benefit, as well as any other newer members of the group, just what is Big Bertha Radiomarine?

Eric

Date: Thu, 8 May 1997 11:26:41 -0400 (EDT)
From: rdkeys@csemail.cropsci.ncsu.edu
Subject: Re: the BA/GB/QRP freq and W1AW

> I called CQ w/the indians (Apache/Mohawk) at about 22:00-22:30 w/no takers...
> (on the BA 3579 QRG)

Gee, that was the only time I was not there.....(:+{{..... I did a quick qsy to 3520 to pick up a sked with N4EE. Maybe tonight.....

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> getting W1AW to move a few kc? I'd wager that they cause more
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> needs of the many glowbuggers, BA-ers and QRPers who
> make use of 3579 because of the plethora of rocks available
> for that particular frequency, while they have the spectrum
> to choose from.

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> Would petitioning them to QSY be fruitless, or worth a shot?

Probably like taking a leg-hike upwind in a snowstorm.

Actually 1AW doesn't bother my regens. I is leaking a little through the R-388 and definitely the TS-140, but not so much that a beam filter or such wouldn't kill it off.

The hint is to dittle the bfo to the low side of the signal so 1AW is about 3.5 kcs up the band. That works on most receivers pretty well.

Gee, the joy of a good regenerator.....(:+)}.....that is why I place such stock in that ol' musty RAL.

73/ZUT DE NA4G/Bob UP

Date: Thu, 8 May 1997 11:47:09 -0400 (EDT)

From: rdkeys@csemail.cropsci.ncsu.edu

Subject: Re: BIG BERTHA RADIOMARINE

> OK, I wasn't going to ask, but can't control myself any longer. For my
> benefit, as well as any other newer members of the group, just what is Big
> Bertha Radiomarine?
>
> Eric

Gee..... It be a fine Glowwebugge Barnburner TX fer sure.....

`Big Bertha' Radiomarine is a Radiomarine Corporation of America (RCA's marine division) ET-8019A merchant marine transmitter, from some ol' rustbucket. It was designed in 1937, to use the `new' 807 and 813 tubes from RCA. It runs an 807 50 watt pentode Hartley oscillator (an RCA design which hails from about 1927 or so), and 807 buffer and a pair of idling 813's in the final. As a basic simple CW transmitter desing, it is hard to beat. It is guaranteed to put out 200 watts on any marine frequency from 2-22 mhz, with direct antenna coupling to the tank. I modified the tank to remain somewhat legally compliant into a pi-L network or M-network, depending upon how it is switched, so it will load up anything from the bedsprings to a beverage and beyond. It uses one plate supply voltage on a big variac that will put out anywhere from 250v-1500v, although she gets a tad squirrely beyond 1200v, on anything above 160/80/40M. She has provision for 10 R-1 xtals, in addition to vfo. She is 4 feet tall, 2 feet deep, and about 15 inches wide, and weighs in at around 150 lbs. All, in all, she is a fine period transmitter that was made from about 1940-1952, in the A model series. Alas, I wish I had some spares or a second chassis to keep her happy. But, she has been running for 20 years as my main transmitter, and I can't complain about that at all. She was designed and built like a battleship, for marine saltwater environments. Coupled with the RAL Navy HF regenerative receiver, it makes a very satisfactory CW station, second to none, on 160/80/40M. She is easy to tune, easy to load, and generally runs at idle, so to speak. Somewhere, back in time, someone gave her the nickhame, `Big Bertha' and it sort of stuck!

73/ZUT DE NA4G/Bob UP

Date: Thu, 8 May 97 11:43:36 -0400

From: fbsnyder@mail04.mitre.org (Forrest B. Snyder Jr)

Subject: Re: the BA/GB/QRP freq and W1AW

You wrote:

>Would petitioning them to QSY be fruitless, or worth a shot?

Go for it! The worst they can do is say "No" which leaves us exactly where we are today. The best they can do is move far enough away to allow us to hear each other with our rather wide passband receivers.

Forrest Snyder, Jr.

N4UTY

"Sure, it's 1936 technology, but it's GOOD 1936 technology."

Date: Thu, 8 May 1997 08:56:37 -0700 (MST)

From: Jeff Duntemann <jeffd@coriolis.com>

Subject: Re: the BA/GB/QRP freq and W1AW

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>> getting W1AW to move a few kc? I'd wager that they cause more
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>> make use of 3579 because of the plethora of rocks available
>> for that particular frequency, while they have the spectrum
>> to choose from.

>>

>> Would petitioning them to QSY be fruitless, or worth a shot?

I don't know how long they've been on that spot (less than a KC or so below colorburst; I don't have the exact number here) but I think they're there for a reason. Using a colorburst crystal you can create a fixed-frequency direct conversion receiver for code practice. Unless I misremember, such a project was in a recent issue of QST, and I've heard it mentioned somewhere else in the past. A crystal and an NE602 gain mixer plus an RC audio filter and 1-transistor audio amp or LM386 is all such a radio would be. (A passive preselector would help but is not essential given W1AW's power level. I've built these things and it's awesome how well they work given that there's nothing in them.) I think more than one company makes a "shake the bag" kit for a code practice receiver of this type.

I would guess ARRL'd be willing to give up nearly ANY frequency but that one--and for the same basic reason that we want them to: Cheap abundant crystals for the frequency.

Before we get TOO terribly annoyed, it might be useful to keep in mind what they're doing: Keeping support for CW alive. So are we. This is an ugly one, sigh. Nobody promised us any easy answers.

- --73--

- --Jeff Duntemann KG7JF
Scottsdale, Arizona

Date: Thu, 8 May 1997 11:16:00 -0600
From: Alex Mendelsohn <alexm@pennwell.com>
Subject: FW: the BA/GB/QRP freq and W1AW

Why not just be patient and wait until W1AW finishes its transmissions? W1AW transmissions are a tradition in ham radio, if there ever was one. I've been licensed since 1959 and always know where to find 1AW!

Leave 'em alone and patiently wait for the frequency, that's my humble opinion.

Vy 73, Alex, AI2Q in Kennebunk, Maine .-.-.

From: 'RDKEYS@SMTP <rdkeys@csemail.cropsci.ncsu.edu>'
To: ALEXM; John
Cc: 'GLOWBUGS@SMTP <glowbugs@www.atl.org>'
Subject: Re: the BA/GB/QRP freq and W1AW
Date: Thursday, May 08, 1997 10:32AM

> I called CQ w/the indians (Apache/Mohawk) at about 22:00-22:30 w/no takers...

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The hint is to dittle the bfo to the low side of the signal so 1AW is about 3.5 kcs up the band. That works on most receivers pretty well.

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73/ZUT DE NA4G/Bob UP

Date: Thu, 08 May 1997 21:07:32 +0200
From: Jan Axing <janax@li.icl.se>
Subject: Re: Yet another 6T9 alternative

> On Tue, 6 May 1997 19:00:37 -0400 (EDT) EricNess@aol.com writes:
> >Yet another alternative to the 6T9 is the 6GW8/ECL86 of Orphan
> >Glowbug/Mighty Midget fame. The plate dissipation of the pentode
> >section
> >is rated at 9 Watts. There are two specs for plate voltage however.
> >The
> >"Plate Supply Voltage" is rated at 550 Volts max but the "Plate
> >Voltage"
> >is only rated at 300 Volts. Could someone explain the difference
> >between
> >the two specs?
> >
> >73, Eric WD6DGX

> Plate supply voltage is what appears on the other side of the plate
> resistor, and also on the plate when the tube is not drawing any current.
> (AKA B+ maybe?) This could be the positive peak voltage on the plate in
> a resistive coupled amplifier.

Correct but in a RF circuit, $B+ = V_a = 300V$ (6GW8) since there is no
DC load (except the resistance in the plate choke).

> Plate voltage is what appears on the plate itself taking into account the
> voltage drop through any resistor on the plate. This is usually the
> average DC plate voltage.

Also correct. I can reinforce this by citing Philips 1958 tube
manual:

"During operation the DC anode or screen voltages should not exceed
the max. stated value for V_a or V_{g2} ."

and

"If, during operation, both an alternating and a direct voltage are
present simultaneously on anode or screen grid, the peak value may
approach (but should not exceed) the max. limit for V_{ao} or V_{g2o} on
the condition that the instantaneous value of the current at that
moment is approximately zero." (which it usually is, my comment).

As above, $V_a = 300V$ and $V_{ao} = 550V$ for 6GW8/ECL86. The manual
defines V_{ao} as "voltage at cutoff". However, $B+$ at 325V is not too bad,
just bring down the screen grid voltage a tad.

> -----
> Charles R. (Randy) Ott
> K5HJ - QRP-L #1040
> -----

73

- - -

Jan, SM5GNN
Linköping, Sweden
janax@algonet.se
janax@li.icl.se

Date: Thu, 8 May 1997 15:43:11 -0500 (CDT)
From: Chris Broadbent <cfb@bga.com>
Subject: My 'new' National

I posted something like this to the distribution once before, but it was eaten by the bit gremlins. So if they later barf up the old one, I apologise for the duplication.

At the recent Ham swap meet in Belton TX, I picked up a National NBS-1 receiver. What a beauty! I believe it is a close relative to the National NC-183 (possibly a D variant), except for being rack mounted.

I was told that it didn't work well, but given its general physical shape, I thought I would take a chance. Although assured that it came straight from the National Bureau of Standards in Boulder CO, it appears that someone has been fiddling on the underneath.

The RF, local oscillator, demodulator, BFO, etc, all appear to be in good shape, as does the audio stage. In fact, I can pick up strong stations, albeit weakly out the loudspeaker. However, it appears that someone wanted the pre-final audio to go somewhere else, and there are additional components and disconnections under the chassis to do just that. I believe that I'm hearing only crosstalk/bleedthrough into the final audio stage. BTW, all the tubes are good.

As this is a quite complicated device, I don't want to start prodding and poking without some documentation. Failing any docs, I'm going to have to spend a lot of time with a strong lamp, magnifying glass, pencil and paper and map out the circuit. The big problem will be trying to fill in the missing/changed bits.

So does anyone out there know where I might find any documentation for the NBS-1? I have looked at a couple of web sites and seen documentation only for the NC-183(D). Also, Sam's doesn't have anything listed for this device (again, just the 183 and 183D). Even just confirmation of its 183(D) heritage (or any other information) will be welcome.

Once I get this one working, it'll replace my NC-125 until I can have a go at making a regen to go with my homebrew TX (thus pleasing Bob no end, given his penchant for said receivers, I'm sure :-).

- - -

Cheers,

Chris F. Broadbent (KC5VQL)

Date: Thu, 8 May 1997 15:55:39 -0700 (PDT)
From: JMcAulay <jmc@QNET.COM>
Subject: Manuals

Just got home, and there it was in the mail: an envelope from

Don Beehler
456 Bennett Street

North Tonawanda NY 14120

I knew it had to be the Hallicrafters manual I'd ordered about a week ago.

Soeone mentioned that Don is a great source for such, and very inexpensive -- most of his stuff is less than five bucks. Sooo, I mailed him a \$5 bill with a request for a manual for an S-38; I said to please ship the manual ASAP, and for any additional charge, let me know and I'd send it right away. What I got was an excellent copy of a Sam's (including fold-out schematic), Cerlok bound with a heavy cover and copies of some old ads for the receiver, in a nice manila folder. It was mailed First Class, and get this, folks... also in the envelope was A ONE-DOLLAR REFUND.

I wish this guy sold automobiles.

Don advertises that his stuff is "a collection of service manuals, instructions, schematics and data from a variety of out-of-print sources for older equipment."

A few prices:

Drake 2-B	\$2.00
Drake R-4	\$5.00
Allied R100A	\$2.00
Allied T-150	\$2.00
Eico 720	\$2.50
Globe Chief Deluxe	\$3.50
Hammarlund HQ-110A	\$2.00
Hammarlund HQ-180/A	\$12.00
Lafayette HE-80	\$3.50
National SQW-54	\$2.00
National NC-300	\$4.00
Heathkit DX-100	\$5.00
Heathkit DX-60A	\$3.00
Heathkit SB-200	\$4.50
RCA AR-77	\$5.00
Simpson 260 VOM	\$3.50
SCR274N	\$2.00
BC-348 117VAC Conver.	\$2.50
Johnson Viking II	\$6.50

These prices are so low they sound almost like scams, but I'm sure pleased. He charged me \$1.50 P & H; from this, \$1.24 went straight to the USPO. There's a double-sided list which he'd no doubt send you for an sase. If all his transactions are like mine, he'll be around for a long time.

73

John WA6QPL

Date: Thu, 8 May 1997 23:05:51 +0000
From: Sandy W5TVW <ebjr@worldnet.att.net>
Subject: Re: FW: the BA/GB/QRP freq and W1AW

At 05:16 PM 5/8/97 +0000, you wrote:

>

> Why not just be patient and wait until W1AW finishes its transmissions?

>W1AW transmissions are a tradition in ham radio, if there ever was one. I've
>been licensed since 1959 and always know where to find 1AW!

>

> Leave 'em alone and patiently wait for the frequency, that's my humble
>opinion.

>

>Vy 73, Alex, AI2Q in Kennebunk, Maine .-.-.

A little more receiver selectivity is in order here! They don't
bother me on
my old Hallicrafters SR-150 xcvr. I'd let the ARRL alone! There's already
some people there who are for a "no code HF" license! I wouldn't doubt it
if they jumped on that bandwagon come 1999.

73,

E. V. Sandy Blaize, W5TVW

"Boat Anchors collected, restored, repaired, traded and used!"

417 Ridgewood Drive,

Metairie, LA., 70001

ebjr@worldnet.att.net

Looking for: 860 tubes, WL-460 tubes

Butternut HF2V antenna, G-R test gear.....

Date: Thu, 08 May 1997 20:17:06 -0400

From: John <johnmb@mindspring.com>

Subject: Angry 109 fun in NC!

PP 2684/GRC-109 #307

R1004/GRC109 #134

and

T784/GRC109 #378

...arrived in central NC today, and, at least the first
two units appear to work fine, after being in storage
for who knows how many years.

The receiver and transmitter appear to have never been
issued, as there are no scratches on the case, nor any
at all on the front panel. While these are sold by Fair as used-unchecked,
the Rx and Tx appear to be new. I'm immediately impressed by the
quality of these units, with their machined knobs and high quality
components and hardware. I was copying a european CW station
on 20m, and also tuned SSB on 40 with no problems, with just
6' of wire as a test antenna. Stability is quite good.

While the built-in key doesn't rival my favorite Speed-X key
for feel, it's adjustable in both tension and travel, similar to any other
key, and works well!

The PS comes with a european-type plug, and I found an
adapter at Radio Shack that allows use of this without hacking up
the original cable.

Now...to meet ya on 3579...!

Best 73

/John

PS: thanks for the input on 80m co-existence with 1AW and

their code practice. I agree that it's a rare enough tribute to CW from them as some of you have pointed out, so I shouldn't complain much. The suggestions to use more sophisticated gear however, goes against what I like that QRG for... stuff like this Angry 109, or my S19 SX53 setup, or the Conar twins or the like. Sure...I could put several other much better radios in line to solve the QRM issue, but I'll just wait for their QRT.

Date: Thu, 8 May 1997 22:26:53 +0000
From: "Brian Carling (Radio G3XLQ / AF4K)" <bry@mnsinc.com>
Subject: Re: the BA/GB/QRP freq and W1AW

I think it is worth a shot IF we do our homework first and come at it with a polite attitude. We should circulate a petition that SUGGESTS that they consider moving to 3582 kHz and politely explain why, with some well-thought-out reasons.

This should FIRST be sent around to the QRP and GB organizations along with as many BA and GB ops as possible.

Someone more eloquent than myself should put together a tentative statement and be OPEN to others contributing ideas and/or changing it.

Hopefully we can demonstrate throughout the process that radio amateurs are still capable of being gentlemanly and willing to back down when they do not get their way.

Jus' tryin' ta help!

Bry, AF4K

On 8 May 97 at 10:52, John spoke about the BA/GB/QRP freq and W1AW and said:

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>
> /John
>
>
>
>

>
>
>
>
>

*** 73 from Radio AF4K / G3XLQ in Gaithersburg, MD USA *
** E-mail to: bry@mnsinc.com *
*** See the great ham radio resources at: *
** <http://www.mnsinc.com/bry/> *

Date: Thu, 8 May 1997 22:26:53 +0000
From: "Brian Carling (Radio G3XLQ / AF4K)" <bry@mnsinc.com>
Subject: Re: FW: the BA/GB/QRP freq and W1AW

On 8 May 97 at 11:16, Alex Mendelsohn spoke about FW: the BA/GB/QRP
freq and W1AW and said:

>
> Why not just be patient and wait until W1AW finishes its
> transmissions?

Because, Alex, they go ON and ON and ON and ON for HOURS!

> W1AW transmissions are a tradition in ham radio, if there ever was
> one. I've been licensed since 1959 and always know where to find
> 1AW!

Yes, and we want them to continue that tradition..... on 3982 or so!

> Leave 'em alone and patiently wait for the frequency, that's my
> humble opinion.

Bet he is not rock-bound on 3579 kHz either, he he!

Date: Fri, 9 May 1997 08:30:14 -0500 (EST)
From: "James C. Owen, III" <owen@piper.eeel.nist.gov>
Subject: RE: My 'new' National

In message Thu, 8 May 1997 15:43:11 -0500 (CDT),
Chris Broadbent <cfb@bga.com> writes:

> At the recent Ham swap meet in Belton TX, I picked up a National NBS-1
> receiver. What a beauty! I believe it is a close relative to the
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> for the NC-183(D). Also, Sam's doesn't have anything listed for this
> device (again, just the 183 and 183D). Even just confirmation of its
> 183(D) heritage (or any other information) will be welcome.
>

Sure Chris I can help. Working here at NBS or now NIST guess what? I have the original manual for the NBS-1. When cleaning out our files several years ago I came upon it and just couldn't quite throw it away. We don't have any NBS-1's anymore of course and in fact I have never seen one even though I have been here 26 years. I never could figure exactly which National it was. I am not surprised that it has been modified since we frequently modify equipment for a given experiment. I suspect that these were used during the propagation studies in the 40's and who knows for what else. I don't want to get rid of my only manual on the NBS-1 but I will be glad to send you a copy. Please send your mailing address. 73 Jim K4CGY Trustee of K3AA (NIST Club Station)

Date: Fri, 9 May 1997 8:59:00 -0600
From: Alex Mendelsohn <alexm@pennwell.com>
Subject: FW: My 'new' National

Chris:

Try the Antique Wireless Association. It has a Web site.

If you are still having trouble, let me know, as I may be able to put you in touch with the appropriate AWA person.

vy 73, Alex, AI2Q in kennebunk, Maine .-.-.

From: Chris Broadbent
To: ALEXM; Glowbugs Distribution List
Subject: My 'new' National
Date: Thursday, May 08, 1997 4:44PM

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Cheers,

Chris F. Broadbent (KC5VQL)

Date: Fri, 9 May 1997 12:57:54 -0400 (EDT)

From: rdkeys@csemail.cropsci.ncsu.edu

Subject: I have 1919 Navy Type SE 1420 ascii manual available now

I have just finished the 1919 Navy Type SE 1420 Medium Wave Radio Receiver manual, in ascii form, if any one wants it.

The receiver is the first of the classical single-tube all-in-one regenerative radio receivers, where the vacuum tube was incorporated into the cabinet.

This manual explains in detail the whys and wherefores of proper coupling, proper antenna tuning, and how to set the detector for damped and undamped waves (hehehe).

The manual is packed with neat operating information and explains in great detail some of those forgotten tricks of making regenerative receivers play, that I have been harping on over the past few months. It makes great reading. Pardon any typeos.....(:+})..... Alas, page 9 is vaporware, so that is blank --- if anyone can forward page 9 of the original manual to me that would make my day!

If you want a copy of this classic regenerative radio receiver manual, return email to me and I will forward it along on Monday or maybe over the weekend, if I get some time.

See ya on da bands!

73/ZUT DE NA4G/Bob UP

End of glowbugs V1 #27

%%%% GlowBugs %%%% GlowBugs %%%% GlowBugs %%%% GlowBugs %%%%

[AB4EL Ham Radio Homepage @ SunSITE](#)

Created by **Steve Modena, AB4EL**
Comments and suggestions to **modena@SunSITE.unc.edu**
